



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 October 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The U.S. Treasury Department has announced the designation of three individuals (Mokhtar Belmokhtar, Mustapha Nasir Ait El Hadi, and Djamel Lounici) and an organization (Al-Bakoun ala al-Ahd) for involvement in terrorism. (See item [9](#))
- The Food and Drug Administration reports that Royal Baltic Ltd. of New York is recalling salmon, herring oil, and sea bass, since there is a possibility they are contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. (See item [20](#))
- NBC-4 in Los Angeles reports officials are recommending that residents and business customers boil water for consumption, while emergency water treatment and quality testing is conducted throughout Southern California, as a result of the wide-spread fires. (See item [21](#))
- Security Focus has raised ThreatCon to Level 2, citing a need for increased vigilance. Please refer to the Internet Alert Dashboard.

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *October 27, Knight Ridder Tribune* — Weak links leave U.S. electricity grid vulnerable to attack. Electrical engineers in southeastern Idaho have spent the last six months testing

the vulnerability of the computer system that controls the nation's vast electrical grid. The concern among some at this 890–square–mile facility the size of Rhode Island is that the system has serious flaws that leave it open to cyber terrorists. Utilities use the system, known within the industry as SCADA, to monitor hundreds of miles of high–voltage wires and to operate other unmanned equipment by remote control. SCADA is standard in the industry worldwide. Many countries, including those that harbor terrorists, use it. Gary Seifert, an electrical engineer for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, said the desert project, called National SCADA Test Bed, was in the planning stages long before August 14. Officials at the laboratory's headquarters in the Snake River Plain in Idaho Falls said the Test Bed is a high–tech model of much of the country's critical infrastructure, with its own electrical grid. Part of the site is secure. **The Test Bed has SCADA systems that are expendable as engineers challenge its inner workings to gain a better understanding of how much damage could occur if it is destroyed,** Seifert said.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/7114384.htm>

2. *October 27, Reuters* — **California fires cut power, officials urge conservation. Huge fires in Southern California cut electricity to about 80,000 utility customers on Monday, October 27, and posed a threat to the transmission grid, prompting state officials and local utilities to call for voluntary energy conservation.** "We're calling on people to conserve energy," said Gregg Fishman, spokesperson for the California Independent System Operator, which manages most of the state's high–voltage transmission grid. Southern California utilities echoed the conservation plea as their crews scrambled across the Southland to repair the electric system. They also called for crews from other state utilities. Early Monday, the only fire–related outage on the main grid was the loss of a 138 kilovolt transmission line in San Diego Gas & Electric's territory. The outage did not pose a threat, however, to the rest of the grid. **Southern California Edison said some of its transmissions lines ranging from 60 to up to 500 kilovolts were automatically turning off and on depending on fire conditions.** "The transmission lines are designed to trip off and come back on," utility spokesperson Susan Heard said. **Grid conditions could quickly change if the Santa Ana winds kick up, fanning the flames racing through Southern California.**

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_10_27_eng-reuters_pma_CALIF-FIRES-CUT-POWER-OFFICIALS-URGE-CONSERVATION&SMContentSet=0

3. *October 27, Reuters* — **Trees, not saboteurs, seen as threat to U.S. power grid.** Trees are more of a threat to the U.S. power grid than terrorists, Michehl Gent, president of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), said on Monday, October 27. He said a tree could have helped bring down much of the eastern U.S. power grid in August but played down the possibility that saboteurs could pose a similar threat to the electric system. NERC is an industry group which sets reliability standards for running the North American power grid. Gent, in a speech at a financial conference, said that **"vegetation management appears to be in the critical path for root cause analysis" of the August 14 blackout in the eastern United States.** Asked why a terrorist could not pose as much of a threat to the power transmission system as a tree, Gent said: **"I think if we enforce the rules and do audits and inspections, I don't think a terrorist stands a chance."** Gent acknowledged, however, that in the August 14 blackout in the eastern United States and Canada, either NERC's rules were inadequate or they were not followed.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_10_27_eng-reuters_pma_TREES-NOT-SABOTEURS-SEEN-THREAT-TO-US-POWER-GRID&SMContentSet=0

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Chemical Sector

4. *October 27, Business Report* — **EU says no delay for controversial new chemicals law.** The European Commission of the European Union (EU) will go ahead to propose major new regulations on chemical production, rejecting misgivings from one of the EU's biggest industries, Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom said on Monday. **The Commission's plan has sparked a lobbying war between environmentalists, who want a crackdown on toxic substances, and the EU's 528 billion euros-a-year chemical industry, which says the new rules could spell its ruin. The bill aims to identify toxic threats to humans and the environment that may lurk in everyday chemicals by forcing firms to register the qualities of thousands of substances they make in a central EU database so they can be screened for safety.** The most problematic substances — for example ones that cause cancer or affect fertility — could be banned, or makers and users could need a special authorization to use them. A spokesman for the EU executive said last week that divisions within the Commission might delay the bill. It said the business-friendly version would cost firms 5.2 billion euros (\$6.1 billion) over a decade, 10 billion euros less than the initial draft. Industry said the Commission was ignoring knock-on effects to industrial users of chemicals.

Source: <http://www.businessreport.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=561&fArticleId=270308>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 24, American Forces Press Service* — **Military works on all-digital targeting system. The U.S. military is developing an advanced communications capability for tactical fighters that will tightly connect the sensors and cockpits of many aircraft. The two-year-old Tactical Targeting Network Technologies program links tactical jet fighters' sophisticated sensors and avionics with real-time, digital communications,** said Peter Highnam of the Defense Advanced Research Projects. The envisioned result is Information Age effectiveness in the complete process while minimizing collateral damage, Highnam said. The process includes detection, positive identification, targeting, meeting rules of engagement, strike and confirmed destruction. The program is being developed to provide the networked infrastructure needed for what Highnam called "the tremendous transformational potential of network-centric warfare."

Source: <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005882>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *October 27, The Register (UK)* — **Halifax suspends e-banking site after phishing attack.** Halifax bank in the United Kingdom has taken its Website offline in response to the widespread circulation of a fraudulent e-mail scam, known as "phishing," targeting its customers. In a statement e-mailed to customers on Saturday, October 25, Halifax said, "In the interests of the security of our customers we have temporarily closed the online service in order that we can communicate the issue to online customers and to make improvements in the service to further safeguard online accounts." According to a spokesperson, the company took this measure because, "[they] felt it was better to bring the site down and make changes and then bring everything back up in its together. We want to tackle the problem in its totality." When the scam came to Halifax's attention on Saturday, it tracked the problem back to a fraudulent replica of its site, hosted in Russia. This site was a copy of the legitimate Halifax Website, with an added form designed to dupe users into handing over sensitive account information. Halifax is unaware of anyone who handed over sensitive account information, but the bank maintains it made sense to "temporarily close its facilities." Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/33602.html>
7. *October 27, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-Report-03-813: Combating Money Laundering: Opportunities Exist to Improve the National Strategy.** Congress passed the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act of 1998 to better coordinate the efforts of law enforcement agencies and financial regulators in combating money laundering. **This act required the issuance of an annual National Money Laundering Strategy for 5 years, ending with the issuance of the 2003 strategy.** To help with deliberations on reauthorization, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) determined (1) agency perspectives on the benefit of the strategy and factors that affected its development and implementation, (2) whether the strategy has served as a useful mechanism for guiding the coordination of federal law enforcement agencies' efforts, (3) the role of the strategy in influencing the activities of federal financial regulators, and (4) whether the strategy has reflected key critical components. **GAO recommends that, if the requirement for a national strategy is reauthorized, the Secretaries of the Treasury and Homeland Security and the Attorney General strengthen the leadership structure for strategy development and implementation, require processes to ensure key priorities are identified, and establish accountability mechanisms.** The departments generally concurred with GAO's report. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03813high.pdf> Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-813>
8. *October 24, Computerworld* — **Citibank customers hit with e-mail scam.** Citibank customers are again being targeted by scam artists trying to get their confidential bank card numbers. **The "phishing" scam is perpetrated via an e-mail that includes a link that apparently directs users to a Citibank Website, where they are greeted with a pop-up box asking them for their full debit card numbers, and their personal identification number.** A Citibank spokesperson said the company was unaware of the latest e-mail scam, but will work with law enforcement to get the spoofed site taken down. The New York-based company's Website already contains information on similar scams that have targeted bank customers in recent months. Ironically, the fake site also contains that information. **A similar e-mail scam targeting Citibank customers made the rounds in August.** Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/cybercrime/story/0,10801,86453,00.html>

9. *October 24, U.S. Treasury* — **U.S. designates more terrorists.** The U.S. Treasury Department on Friday, October 24, announced the designation of three individuals and an organization for involvement in terrorism. The action comes in response to the recent submission by another country of these names to be listed as terrorists by the United Nations. **The individuals, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, Mustapha Nasir Ait El Hadi, and Djamel Lounici, are designated for their involvement in the Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC).** GSPC, previously designated as a terrorist organization, continues to conduct operations aimed at government and military targets in Algeria and has ties to al Qaeda. **The Al-Bakoun ala al-Ahd organization is also named for providing support to GSPC.** The action is taken under obligations to freeze the assets of individuals and organizations listed by the UN and is consistent with the Financial Action Task Force's Special Recommendation III on Terrorist Financing. Although the UN listing is still pending, the U.S. has determined that these four meet the standards for designation.

Source: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js944.htm>

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Transportation Sector

10. *October 27, KCRChannel.com (Sacramento, CA)* — **Fires delay, cancel Sacramento flights.** **The massive wildfires in Southern California have been having a direct affect on travel all across the state.** The lines at Sacramento International Airport have been getting longer and patience has been getting thinner since the smoke from the Southern California fires has caused delays and cancellations of flights. **Also affecting travel, the freeways are closed and Amtrak was not running because the station was burned down.** There are two airlines that fly from Sacramento to Southern California: United and Southwest. With one-third of Sacramento daily flights headed for Southern California, officials said Monday that the impact in Northern California could be felt for days. Southwest airlines officials said passengers should rebook flights for Wednesday or later. They said passengers can rebook or even cancel without penalty.

Source: <http://www.thekcrachannel.com/news/2585076/detail.html>

11. *October 27, New York Times* — **Senate passes Amtrak subsidy, but a more frugal House awaits.** The Senate has approved a \$1.34 billion subsidy for Amtrak for the fiscal year that began on October 1, setting up a conflict with the House, which approved a \$900 million bill and has been eager for structural changes at the railroad. **Amtrak had been seeking \$1.8 billion, which it said it needed to return to a state of good repair.** The two versions will go to a conference committee, probably one that will consider several last-minute appropriations bills, Congressional staff members said. The White House favors the \$900 million subsidy, but Gunn insists that number would force a shutdown next year. **The negotiators will also have to resolve some nonfinancial details in the bill.** **The House favors a provision that would let another federal agency, the Surface Transportation Board, step in to keep the Northeast Corridor open for commuter operations and freight traffic if Amtrak were to shut down.** **Amtrak owns the Northeast Corridor, the tracks from Washington through Penn Station in New York to Boston.** The House negotiators may also push for a clause that would allow a single Amtrak long-distance route to be contracted out to a private operator as an experiment, a

House aide said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/27/politics/27AMTR.htm>

12. *October 27, Associated Press* — **New Elk Point port of entry weighs moving trucks. Trucks will be weighed on the move at a high-tech port of entry being built on Interstate 29 near Elk Point, SD.** Construction of the \$5.77 million project is expected to be complete in early January. **The port is the first of its kind in South Dakota and is equipped with a weigh-in-motion scale and transponders that can check a company's insurance, safety rating and other required information as a truck drives past at 25 to 35 mph.** Trucking companies that meet certain safety criteria will be eligible to buy transponders for the cabs of their trucks, said Lt. Kevin Karley of the Highway Patrol. Northbound trucks on Interstate 29 that are equipped with the transponders will exit into a bypass lane and pass under an electronic reader that sends signals to the port of entry. **If the company's paperwork is in order and the load is underweight, a green light at a second checkpoint clears the truck to return to the interstate. If the red light comes on, the truck has to park near the static weigh scale.**

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/7114147.htm>

13. *October 27, Government Computer News* — **Senate passes \$91 billion Transportation, Treasury bill.** The Senate has passed a \$91 billion Transportation, Treasury and general government appropriations bill for fiscal 2004 that provides a mixed outlook for IT and some challenges for President Bush. **Among its provisions, S 1589 would allow private-public job competitions to continue under the revised OMB Circular A-76. The House, which passed its version of the bill in July, scrapped funds for reviews using the new rules. The House would allow job competitions using the earlier version of A-76.** The Senate did make some exceptions to the revised circular. For example, it voted against a requirement that government teams winning job competitions re-compete for them every five years.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23998-1.html

14. *October 26, Cape Cod Times (MA)* — **Coast Guard to deploy armed, rapid-response security unit in Boston.** Boston has a unit of new Coast Guard teams designed to prevent terrorism. **"These are the maritime equivalent of SWAT teams, and their capabilities are lethal," said Vice Adm. James Hull.** A 23-year veteran of the Coast Guard and former operations officer at Coast Guard Group Woods Hole, Lt. Cmdr. Kondratowicz is commander of the seventh and newest Maritime Safety and Security Team, MSST-91110, which will be stationed in Boston. **These teams, each costing about \$8 million a year including salaries and equipment, are the first completely new Coast Guard response to the challenges presented since the September 11 terrorist attacks.** Last week, Kondratowicz and his team, roughly 100 members strong with an average age of 28, went through grueling training exercises conducted by the Coast Guard's Special Missions Training Center at an old naval base in North Charleston harbor in South Carolina. Beforehand, they trained at the Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Source: <http://www.capecodonline.com/cctimes/seachange26.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 27, Trenton Times* — **Successful weekend in anthrax cleanup.** U.S. Postal Service officials expressed optimism Sunday as they detailed the finish to nearly problem-free efforts over the weekend to fumigate the Route 130 mail processing and distribution center in Hamilton, NJ. The fumigation process, which began at 4 p.m. Friday, finished ahead of schedule, and the chlorine dioxide gas used to kill anthrax spread throughout the 282,000-square-foot building was removed around 6 p.m. Saturday. **While the fumigation is finished, officials won't know for sure whether the building is safe for several months.** Test strips placed throughout the building will be removed, starting today, and contractors in protective suits will begin taking swipe and air sample tests at targeted locations inside the center. The building will be deemed safe only after the test results are reviewed by an independent clearance committee. **Rich Orlusky, the Postal Service's on-site coordinator, said more than 3,000 tests will be taken inside the building, which has been closed since October 18, 2001, after it processed at least four anthrax-laced letters. If the committee recommends the building be reopened, secondary cleaning will start.**

Source: http://www.nj.com/news/times/index.ssf?/base/news-1/10672491_60224151.xml

16. *October 27, Washington Times* — **Smart stamps.** Beginning with commercial mail, the U.S. Postal Service will require "enhanced sender identification" for all discount-rate mailings, according to the notice published in the October 21 Federal Register. **The purpose of identifying senders is to provide a more efficient tracking system, but more importantly, to "facilitate investigations into the origin of suspicious mail."** The Postal Service began to look into updating mailing procedures after the anthrax scares in October 2001. But what has privacy advocates concerned is a report by a presidential commission that recommends the post office develop technology to identify all individual senders. "The President's Commission on the United States Postal Service recently recommended the use of sender identification for every piece of mail," the Federal Register stated. "Requiring sender-identification for discount-rate mail is an initial step on the road to intelligent mail." **Also cited in the notice are two congressional committee recommendations urging the Postal Service to explore the concept of sender identification, including the "feasibility of using traceable identifiers applied by the creator of the mailpiece."** Smart stamps, or personalized stamps with an embedded digital code would identify the sender, destination, and class.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20031026-124606-8419r.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *October 27, Dow Jones* — **EU delays new GMO seed rules.** In a setback for agriculture biotech, the European Union (EU) has delayed until next spring voting on limits on the amount of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in cereal and vegetable seeds. **When regular seeds are produced, some GMOs accidentally get mixed in through cross pollination.** European organic farmers feared their products would be contaminated. In order to protect them, the EU's executive body proposed labeling the seeds if they contained between 0.3 percent to 0.7 percent GMOs, depending on the crop. But the biotech industry felt this low level was too restrictive. Green groups felt it was too generous. And without a consensus, the EU found itself deadlocked. **The U.S. government has sued the EU at the World Trade**

Organization to force Europe to lift its barriers against GMOs. U.S. biotechnology companies are also lobbying hard for loosening seed rules and a threshold higher than 0.7 percent.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/dowjones/20031027/bs_dowjones/200310271331001275

18. *October 27, Agricultural Research Service* — **Handling—system changes can reduce grain mixing. With more specialty grains flowing into the marketplace, there is a growing need for grain—handling programs that can effectively segregate grains so that there's no unwanted mixing. Zeroing in on the commingling that can occur during grain unloading and storage, a scientist with the Agricultural Research Service recently identified the parts of a grain elevator that may contribute to mixing and assessed how flushing with a quick burst of "cleansing" grain can lessen the problem.** Maintaining the genetic and physical purity, or separateness, of grains is the goal of identity preservation (IP) programs in the grain industry. IP systems are needed to segregate specialty grains with unique desired qualities, such as low—linolenic canola and organic varieties. This new data about effective flushing methods can be used by operators of similarly designed elevators. Elevator owners and operators have had few cost—effective options for practicing IP in their aging facilities. **Also in development is software that will make specific recommendations to elevator owners and operators about flushing. It will also spell out equipment modifications needed to reduce grain commingling.**

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/031027.htm>

19. *October 26, Associated Press* — **New oyster growing methods. Off—bottom culturing, where oysters are grown on the surface of the water in bags suspended from poles rather than on reefs, is viewed as a way to rejuvenate Louisiana's oyster industry.** "These oysters grow like weeds off bottom," said John Supan, a Louisiana State University researcher who's experimenting with growing oysters off the bottom in a hatchery. Oysterman Le Roy Chauvin glues baby oysters to plastic holders and puts bunches of them in plastic—coated wire cages near the top of the water. With more sunlight, fewer bacteria, and more food available at the surface, Chauvin said the oysters grow much faster than they do on reefs. **"We start with oysters as big as your little finger nail and we get 4 inches in 12 months. And on the bottom it takes 36 to 48 months," Chauvin said.** Chauvin claims one acre of off—bottom oysters produces the equivalent of 30 acres on the bottom, cuts down on much of the work, and rids the need of building up deteriorating reefs with oyster shell. Chauvin sees another reason to turn away from harvesting oysters off reefs: The reefs are disappearing. In many places, fishermen say, Louisiana's sea bottoms have become muddy flats churned up by hurricanes, coastal erosion, and oyster dredging.

Source: <http://www.theadvertiser.com/news/html/CAE3CF19-42A5-4DBA-88A1-30F1300127DB.shtml>

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Food Sector

20. *October 27, Food and Drug Administration* — **Smoked fish products recalled.** Approximately 4500 pounds of salmon, 1620 jars of herring oil, and 454 packages of sea

bass have been recalled by Royal Baltic Ltd. of New York. The above products have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Listeria can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The above products were distributed to retail stores in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland. No illnesses have been reported to date. This recall action is the result of the Food and Drug Administration's notification that sampling and inspections revealed that the finished products contained the bacteria.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/royalbaltic10_03.html

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Water Sector

21. *October 27, NBC-4 (Los Angeles)* — Water warnings issued during California wildfires.

Wildfires are causing major problems for water service and supply in Southern California. The California Department of Health, the San Bernardino County Health Department, and the East Valley Water District have recommended that their residents and customers boil water for consumption. Officials said emergency water treatment and quality testing is currently being conducted throughout Southern California. In addition to the boiled water warning, water conservation is urged by the West Valley Water District for the North Rialto area due to the loss of three pump stations. The wildfires, which have killed 13 people as of October 27, are the worst the state has seen in more than a decade, according to the Associated Press. Strong winds have added to the problem, and have caused the fires to spread south.

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=43854

22. *October 26, Associated Press* — Fluoride levels keep water plant closed. A water treatment plant that dumped high amounts of fluoride into Marlboro, MA, drinking water was closed for the weekend while officials determined the cause of the release. After the faulty valve at Millham Water Treatment Facility released six times the normal level of fluoride into Marlboro's water on Friday, October 24, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shut down the plant until Monday. The release caused no injuries or illnesses, according to DEP Central Massachusetts Regional Director Martin Suuberg. State and local officials will determine on Monday, October 27, if the facility can be returned to use. The affected area was contained to a one mile radius of the Millham Water Treatment Facility. Normal fluoride levels should be four parts per million or less. When plant workers noticed Ph readings were off, tests found levels were at 24 parts per million, Suuberg said. Suuberg said to his knowledge, this was the first concentrated release of fluoride in Central Massachusetts.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailynews/299/region/Fluoride_levels_keep_water_pla:.shtml

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Public Health Sector

23. *October 27, Associated Press* — **SARS cases reported misdiagnosed in China. Doctors in southern China's Guangdong province mistakenly diagnosed more than 200 patients as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases but later found they were suffering from other respiratory ailments, a state-run newspaper reported Monday.** Guangdong, the region where SARS surfaced last winter, had reported 1,274 cases by the time the disease ebbed in June. But according to Wang Ming, vice director of the Guangzhou Disease Prevention and Control Center, later blood tests determined that only 1,062 actually had SARS, the Shanghai Morning Post reported. The others all were sick with flu or pneumonia, he said. Earlier, doctors had said the number of true SARS cases might be lower than reported, as health officials sought to contain the highly contagious disease by isolating many patients suspected of having SARS, despite a lack of reliable diagnostic tests.
Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20031027_653.html

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Government Sector

24. *October 27, Congress Daily* — **New visa policies tie up State, trouble travel industry. Lawmakers questioned government officials Thursday about new visa policies to prevent terrorists from entering the country and the economic impact on the U.S. travel industry.** "We're deeply worried about our economy," Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar, R-IN, said during a hearing of the International Operations and Terrorism Subcommittee on visa reforms and new technology initiatives at various departments. **It has translated into a loss of U.S. national revenues and scholarships for foreign students and has negatively affected foreign countries' perception of the United States, he said. Industry officials, who testified along with officials from the State and Homeland Security departments and the FBI, echoed Lugar's statements. In prepared remarks on behalf of the Travel Industry Association of America, Jose Estorino said since 2000, the loss of international travel to the United States has cost the nation \$15.3 billion.** New visa policies, such as requirements for State Department officials to personally interview visa applicants and run their names through several databases, have resulted in increased costs, discouraged business with the United States and created the perception that the United States is becoming "fortress America," said Estorino.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/102403cdam2.htm>

25. *October 27, Albuquerque Tribune Online* — **Conference readies officials for terror, other catastrophe. Police and fire officials from across the United States are gathering in Albuquerque, NM, for the second annual Homeland Security/Combating Terrorism Conference at Isleta Casino and Resort, sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories.** "The conference is a real opportunity for me — and other public safety officials — to learn what sorts of threats are out there and what the local and national capabilities are," said Bob Halton, deputy chief of the Albuquerque Fire Department. The weeklong conference, which starts Monday, isn't open to the public for security reasons. Some confidential strategies and technologies for fighting terrorist attacks will be discussed in the sessions, said Gil Baca, conference organizer and a Sandia Labs Homeland Security officer. **The 82 scheduled speakers will also talk about planning and strategy in several other situations, including bombings and biological and chemical terror attacks, Halton said. Sandia Labs will hold a**

letter-bomb demonstration for officials where it will explode a device outside of the casino on Wednesday. About 600 firefighters, police, government officials and others are expected to attend, with 400 or so from New Mexico, Baca said.

Source: http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/102703_news_terrconf.shtml

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *October 27, ARRL: National Association for Amateur Radio* — **Hams support massive firefighting, relief effort. As wind-driven fires continue to burn in California, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams have activated to assist local authorities and relief organizations.** ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, says the fires encroached on more-populated areas, forcing thousands to flee and destroying homes and businesses. **ARES members also have been helping Red Cross Disaster Assessment Teams (DATs), but Tiburski said they had limited mobility at this stage of the fire.** Schools and businesses have closed for the emergency, and some highways remain closed to traffic. San Diego International Airport was shut down over the weekend and evacuated.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/10/27/2/?nc=1>

27. *October 27, Sun-Sentinel (Palm Beach, FL)* — **Cities denounce Florida county's plan to standardize fire protection.** A controversial Palm Beach County plan that would force fire departments to standardize the equipment they use and the number of people on duty each day comes under fire again this week. **The county's proposal, crafted by Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Chief Herman Brice with input from cities, calls for a countywide referendum creating minimum standards for Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue and all city fire departments.** Under Brice's plan, which was drawn up after consulting city fire chiefs and city managers, every fire department in the county would have no fewer than 11 people working each day for even the smallest departments — two fire engines with three people each, two ambulances with two people each, and an incident commander. It also calls for departments to have certain kinds of equipment, from fire trucks to radios, and assure that the equipment is compatible with that of other departments. **Cities such as Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach already meet those standards. But other, smaller cities in Palm Beach County might not, and a county mandate could create a burden.**

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=sectionId=46&id=20788>

28. *October 27, The Salt Lake Tribune* — **Threat of cancer has firefighters vying for coverage. It's the hidden and unavoidable hazards — benzene, asbestos, formaldehyde and any number of deadly chemical combinations — present in the smoke and smoldering embers that frighten firefighters.** According to occupational hazard experts, practically every emergency situation a firefighter encounters — from chemical spills to house fires — carries high exposure potential. And safety equipment doesn't offer foolproof protection. But legislation to add certain cancers to the list of diseases that firefighters can claim under workers compensation insurance could, at least, help Utah's 1,500 career and 4,000 volunteer firefighters pay for medical treatment and recovery time off work.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Oct/10272003/utah/105887.asp>

Information and Telecommunications Sector

29. *October 27, New York Times* — **Brazil becomes a cybercrime lab.** Brazil is becoming a laboratory for cybercrime, with hackers specializing in identity and data theft, credit card fraud and piracy, as well as online vandalism. So far this year, **nearly 96,000 overt Internet attacks—ones that are reported, validated or witnessed—have been traced to Brazil.** Already overburdened in their fight to contain violent crime, police officials are finding it difficult to keep pace with hacker syndicates. The 20 officers working for the electronic crime division of the São Paulo police catch about 40 cybercrooks a month. But those criminals account for but a fraction of the "notorious and ever increasing" number of cybercrimes in São Paulo, Brazil's economic capital, said Ronaldo Tossunian, the department's deputy commissioner. The São Paulo department's effort is not helped by vague legislation dating back to 1988. Under that law, **police officers cannot arrest a hacker merely for breaking into a site, or even distributing a software virus, unless they can prove the action resulted in the commission of a crime.**

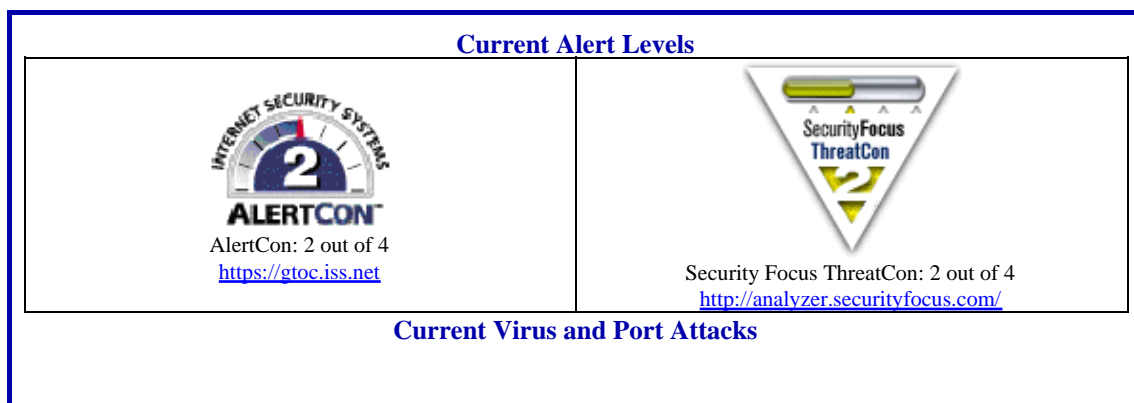
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/27/technology/27hack.html>

30. *October 25, TechWeb News* — **Attackers gearing up to exploit Windows Messenger security hole.** An exploit code that takes advantage of a critical vulnerability in Microsoft's Windows Messenger Service is out in the wild and could prove as dangerous as this summer's MSBlaster worm if attackers decide to focus their efforts, security analysts said Friday, October 24. **Released early last week, the exploit code — which has been crafted to run not only on attackers' Windows machines, but also on Linux and Unix boxes — crashes Windows systems not patched against the vulnerability released October 15 in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03–043.** What concerns security analysts is the speed with which this exploit was produced. **The span between the disclosure of the vulnerability by Microsoft and proof of exploit code was just three days.** Users can disable Windows Messenger Service by following the instructions in Microsoft's security bulletin:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03–043.asp>

Source: <http://www.internetweek.com/security02/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=15600402>

Internet Alert Dashboard



Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 80 (www), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 27374 (SubSeven) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

31. *October 27, The Christian Science Monitor* — **A strategic pattern to Iraqi strikes.** The Muslim holy month of Ramadan began in Baghdad under a pall of fear Monday, October 27, as a coordinated series of attacks killed about 40 people — the most violent day in the city since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. **The incidents fit a pattern of increasingly organized attacks that hit soft targets to demoralize foreigners and locals working with the coalition.** The first attack was on the International Committee of the Red Cross, probably one of the softest targets with foreigners in Baghdad as it has a policy of using minimal security. **If more aid workers leave the country or if Iraqi police either quit or refuse to volunteer for dangerous duty, humanitarian and law enforcement duties will revert to coalition troops — soldiers generally ill-equipped for either task.** Three other successful attacks damaged police stations manned by Iraqi police and U.S. soldiers. At least 27 were killed in the police station bombings, including one U.S. soldier, and 12 were killed at the Red Cross. **Unemployment, estimated at 60 percent, is part of the security problem.** "There are millions of people out there who've lost their salaries, their prestige. Some are willing to do anything," said Sadoun al-Dulame of the Iraq Center for Research and Strategic Studies. Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1028/p01s04-woiq.html>
32. *October 27, Associated Press* — **California wildfires continue to spread.** The hot Santa Ana wind driving wildfires across parts of Southern California eased Monday, October 27, but **officials warned that there was still a threat from the flames that had charred more than 400,000 acres and killed at least 13 people.** Governor Gray Davis announced he was activating the National Guard, calling on more resources from neighboring states and predicted the cost of the fires would be in the billions. More than 900 homes had been destroyed and an estimated 30,000 others were still in danger, officials said. **The blazes scattered from the Mexican border to the suburbs of Los Angeles** had triggered a harrowing flight to safety for thousands of residents, hospital patients and prison inmates. **The Federal Aviation Administration control center in San Diego was evacuated disrupting air travel across the nation, and some airlines canceled flights into the region. Major highways were blocked and some schools were closed.** Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24199-2003Oct 27.html>

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DHS/IAIP Warnings – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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